ANOTHER ASTEROID "NEAR MISS"

While most of us were watching the middle-east missiles during January, another missile in the form of an asteroid became the closed "near-miss" of any asteroid yet observed.

Although only 5 to 10 metres across, this little bullet from beyond, had it hit the Earth, would have made a crater nearly 1km across and 30 metres deep. It would have hit the Earth at approx 20 km per second. (ie 76,000 km per hour)

Now known as 1991 BA, the asteroid, previously unknown, missed us by only 170,000km, which is less than half the distance from Earth to the Moon

Source: - Syd Morning Herald, 25/1/91.

CANCER RISKS & POWER LINES

According to a report commissioned by the Victorian Health Dept., high voltage electromagnetic fields more than doubled the risk of childhood cancers.

The report was based on epidemiological studies of frequencies in the range of 50-60Hz.

Based on three studies, the report concluded "This showed prima facie evidence that a residential exposure to power line frequency magnetic fields of at least 3mG is associated with an elevated risk of childhood cancer."

Source: The Age

MYSTERIOUS NEW STRUCTURE FOUND IN SPACE

Astronomers have discovered an immense collection of galaxies, describing them as the biggest structure ever seen in the universe.

The structure, which they call the "Great Wall", is so difficult to explain that it raises new questions about theories of the origin and structure of the universe.

The galaxies that make up the Great Wall form a 'sheet' that is at least 500 million light years long, 200 million light years wide and 15 million light years thick.



The Great Wall was discovered by Margaret Geller and John Huchra of the Harvard-Smithsonian Centre for Astrophysics in Cambridge in a detailed three-dimensional map they have been compiling of a section of the heavens. The structure is so big that it appears to run off the edges of the map.

The researchers reported their discovery in a November issue of "Science".

HAWKESBURY NEPEAN RIVER FACES DEATH

Sounds dramatic, but Sydney-siders be warned! The Managing Director of the Water Board, Mr Bob Wilson told a chemicals summit at Penrith last month, that the water quality of the Nepean-Hawkesbury system, which is Sydney's major source of drinking supplies, was deteriorating so rapidly that without remedial action, the river would die.

Source: Syd Morn Herald - 12/2/91

'DOUBLE-SPEAK' OR PROPAGANDA?

It seems that every time the US goes to war it has to invent a new language to smooth over the truth. This time it was the phrase "collateral damage" that made a lot of people feel a little queasy at hearing innocent human life described so callously.

It may interest some to learn that in previous "armed conflicts" or wars, several other descriptions were employed. For example, the US invasion of Granada was "a pre-dawn vertical insertion of troops". In Vietnam, you didn't kill the enemy, you "serviced the target", "neutralised" somebody, or even better "de-humanised the enemy".

My favourite piece of "double-speak" occurred in '47, when the US Govt changed the name of the Dept of War, to the Dept of Defence.

CARBON 14 TESTS OUT OF DATE

The popular method of dating ancient artifacts, particularly organic matter is the Carbon 14 dating method.

According to the Jan 1991 issue of "Diggings", a monthly archeological journal published in Sydney,

"some snail shell from antiquity were crushed and tested and found to be 37,000 years old. But in another test, the shells of some living snails were tested by the same method, and these also were found to be 37,000 years old."

Also, according to a report in *New Scientist*, the carbon dating of the Turin Shroud may have been inaccurate. The results of trials at 38 laboratories around the world which dated artifacts of known age were compared by Britain's Science & Energy Research Council (SERC). They revealed that the margin of error may be 2 to 3 times greater than at present accepted.

Worse still, the accuracy of accelerator mass spectrometry (AMS), the method used to date the Turin Shroud, came out of the survey badly and was "way out" when dating samples of less than 200 years old.

Source: New Scientist, 30/9/1989.

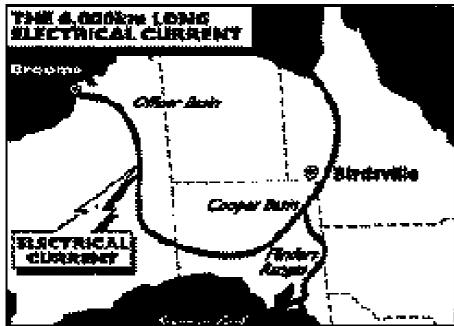
ELECTRIC CURRENT DISCOVERED BENEATH AUSTRALIA!

A 6,000km long "loop" described as the world's longest electrical current has been discovered beneath Australia.

The "loop" stretches from Broome in WA down towards SA, up through western Qld, and out the Gulf.

The Australian current flows about 15km below the surface, sometimes deeper, with a width of about 50 to 200km.

A second current branches off the main one, just below Birdsville, and flows down into the Spencer Gulf.



The interesting thing is that the currents pass through all the major oil and gas fields, including prospective areas such as the Officer Basin in WA.

According to the scientist who found it, Dr Francois Chamalaun of Flinders University, the current is a weak current, unable to light a lamp.

Similar flows of underground electricity, generated by changes in the Earth's magnetic field, have been discovered in North America and Canada.

Source: Sydney Morning Herald 11/3/91.

MEDITATORS TO GET DISCOUNTED CAR **INSURANCE**

As early as January 1st, 1989, T.M. meditators began receiving a 30 to 50% reduction of their car insurance, without losing any services. A Dutch company, BERG-Diensten, has made this offer to drivers, who must take a 5 year policy and conduct two daily T.M meditations. The company claims statistics have shown that people who do T.M are simply not as big a risk. Characteristics about these meditators include - low alcoholism, virtually no anxiety or stress, quicker reaction time, and better perception. The company will also be providing discount on sickness insurance.

> Source: World Research News; 1st Quarter 1991

DISCOVERED

1991DA, may force changes in theories

The asteroid is on an unstable and highly elliptical orbit around the Sun, with an orbit taking it out beyond Uranus, which is about twice as far as any other known asteroid.

discovered 1991DA using the telescope at Siding Spring in NSW.

Source: New Scientist, 6th April 1991

ECCENTRIC ASTEROID

A newly discovered asteroid, named about how the Solar System was formed.

Australian astronomer Rob McNaught

high security buildings like the one in Herbert St, St Leonards NSW, or Dandenong Rd, Vic.

POLICEMAN CAUGHT SHOPLIFTING!

While viewing a video-tape recording of a shoplifter in action, some English police were shocked to discover he was their own crime prevention officer.

Raymond Bate was fined, and has quit the force.

Source: Telegraph-Mirror 22/2/91

FLUORIDATION BLACKMAIL?

The NORTHERN STAR, Lismore (12/11/90) reported what amounts to be stand-over tactics by the NSW Dept of Health, against the Lismore people's stand against artificial fluoridation

Part of the NSW Health Dept letter to the Council reads...

"It appears that plans to provide School and Hospital Dental Services at the proposed Goonellabah Health Centre won't be funded unless Council reconsiders its decision on fluoridation of water supplies."

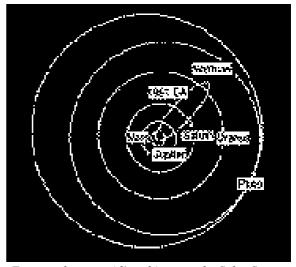
The same pressure was applied to Coffs Harbour City Council, according to The Advocate, (8/11/90), giving them a choice of "fluoridate", or no extra "funds". They stated that additional dental funding should only be for fluoridated areas!

TELECOM OR TELECON?

Recent figures from Tart Research quote Telecom as Australia's largest spender on advertising, with \$34.4 million dollars spent.

One wonders what Telecom will do with the money raised from the proposed increase in phone charges - they certainly are not paying their technicians who have recently gone on strike for a pay rise to bring them up to the award wage.

Maybe it will go into funding more of those 'top-secret'



Far out: the asteroid's orbit spans the Solar System from Mars to Uranus and beyond

Global News ...

If fluoride actually did reduce tooth decay, surely there would be less need for Dentists in fluoridated areas, not more!

INDONESIA SEEN AS SECURITY THREAT TO AUSTRALIA

The rumours of a future Indonesian invasion of Australia have gathered momentum with the release of a new survey.

Ian McAllister from the Defence Force Academy in Canberra claims that up to 24% of Australians perceive Indonesia as the biggest threat to Australia's security.

(Source: Sunshine Coast Daily, Friday April 5, 1991)

FEDERAL POLICE FEUDS BENEFIT CORRUPTION

The departure from the Australian Federal Police (AFP) of organised crime expert Peter Lamb has helped cause more serious operational and morale problems. The old rivalries between former ACT and Commonwealth police, (who combined in 1979) has even led to senior officers refusing to talk to each other about day to day operations.

Several disasters have been identified which apparently were 'caused' by this breakdown in communications and morale.

1. The Wallace Affair.

Michael Wallace, an AFP officer who worked in "the vault", the place where seized drugs are stored. Last July he was sentenced to 12 years jail after being busted with assorted drugs, including 9 kilos of heroin. He also had \$237,000 in cash, and it is anyone's guess how much heroin and cocaine he sold before being caught. There was no internal investigation because noone asked for one.

2. Operation Sleep.

After a tipoff from Customs, the AFP put 16 kilos of cocaine under surveillance last year. Normally a substitute is used, but not this time. Within about 5 minutes of the surveillance starting, the observation squad lost it. (The cocaine that is).

It has never been found.

Source: The Eye, June Quarter 1991